



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DATE: December 22, 2011

TO: Licensed Child Day Care Centers and Group Day Care Homes

FROM: Debra L. Johnson, Chief, Community Based Regulation Section

RE: Physical Plant Requirements Pertaining to Child Day Care Centers and Group Day Care Homes/ New Department Database/Request for Email Addresses

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the Department's implementation of the enclosed new policies and procedures that pertain to the physical plant requirements for licensed child day care centers and group day care homes that exclusively serve school age children. These policies and procedures were adopted in accordance with Public Act 10-90 and are the result of collaboration between this Department and the Connecticut After School Network. The provisions of PA 10-90 have allowed the Department to implement these policies and procedures while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form. These policies and procedures are now in effect and will remain in effect until the time final regulations are adopted. On December 27, 2011, these policies and procedures will be published in the Connecticut Law Journal and will be made available for public comment. At that time, a copy of the publication and information regarding the public comment period will be made available on the Child Day Care Licensing Program's website at www.ct.gov/dph/daycare under What's New or by calling 1-(800)282-6063. In addition to these changes related to the physical plant requirements, further regulatory changes are being pursued and will also be published in the Connecticut Law Journal in the near future. This notice and the proposed changes will also be made available on the above website at the time of publication.

As you may already know, the Child Day Care Licensing Program recently transitioned to a new licensing system. The new licensing system, known as eLicense, takes advantage of new technology capabilities that will increase efficiency and service quality for licensed providers, researchers, parents, the general public and other interested stakeholders. The new system allows the public to conduct on-line searches of child day care providers and displays basic license and inspection information, substantiated complaint history information and formal discipline history information. Additionally, eLicense enables the public to download rosters of child day care providers, and allows the Department to collect valuable data related to the child day care licensing and monitoring activities. Additional features expected to be implemented in the future include on-line renewal of licenses and posting of routine licensing inspection results on-line.

As we all know, the importance of emergency preparedness has been highlighted by Hurricane Irene and Storm



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Alfred. In an effort to improve the Department's ability to communicate with child day care providers during emergencies and in routine business operations, the Department is in the process of including all licensed child day care programs as part of the Department's mass notification system. Once accomplished, this will enable the Department to dramatically increase the speed at which it can contact licensed programs by phone throughout the state. Additionally, the Department is updating its database with the email addresses of license child day care programs. The collection of these emails will avail the Department to yet another method of sharing information with child care programs. If you have an email address that you wish to share with the Department, you may email it to dph.daycare@ct.gov along with your name, the name of your program and license number. This temporary address will be available until February 1, 2012 for this purpose only. In the future, should your email address change, you may notify the Department by contacting the Child Day Care Licensing Program at 1-800-282-6063 or at Connecticut Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12CBR, Hartford, CT 06134-0308.



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